



Minutes of Meeting

CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

December 9, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Bomke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Plunk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josh Collins	<input type="checkbox"/>	J.D. Sudeth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Hasara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joan Walters
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Wesley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jackie Newman		

Others:

Chief Ken Fustin - Retired Springfield Fire Department

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

Norm Sims – SSCRPC

Gail Weiskopf- SSCRPC

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Chair Walters announced that commissioner Mr. J.D. Sudeth was not in attendance for the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 18, 2015, regular meeting. Mr. Robert Plunk noted a correction of a date. Hon. Karen Hasara moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Walters asked if there were any announcements. Chair Walters stated at the Economic Development meeting announced the Regional Planning will be doing City Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Norm Sims expressed that is what the SSCRPC was told but they have not yet seen the contract.

V. GUEST SPEAKER - FIRE/EMS- CHIEF KEN FUSTIN

Chair Walters welcomed retired Chief Ken Fustin and explained the Commission has for the past six meetings has invited experts from the areas of priority to help us understand how to proceed



on our recommendations. Chair Walters ask Mr. Robert Wesley to set up the context for the discussion of Fire/EMS recommendation.

Wesley stated that Fustin was aware of what the CEC has been trying to accomplish since the Regional Leadership Council created a task group for Fire/EMS and he was a member of the group. Wesley spoke briefly of a number of recommendations which were produced during the CEC's first term. One such Recommendation was the Fire/EMS report which included reducing the total number of Fire Protection Districts into quadrants. Quadrants would include EMS Substations strategically located based on call history, drive times and demographics. This was not well received by the districts, however, the RLC has been concerned enough about the quality of rural fire/ems service the task group was created and continues to meet. Another Recommendation, the Pass-Through Fire Protection District recommendation, envisioned a proposal allowing some rural Fire districts to provide paid stipends for volunteers to man shifts during peak demand. Wesley noted Chief Fustin has informed the task force that Tiered Training is appropriate and being discussed during statewide policy discussions related to training. It is believed the Fire Protection Districts would be better able to produce and maintain appropriate levels of volunteers under a tiered system. The overwhelming majority of emergency calls are medical in nature. It was also noted that rural districts continue to struggle to maintain a fully responsive volunteer base.

Wesley listed 3 main topics that he would like retired Chief Ken Fustin to cover.

1. Tiered Training – unpaid volunteers
2. Culture of Fire Protection Districts: Why is it so difficult convincing others a change is needed? If not the recommendation the CEC proposed; why are the fire districts unable to discuss and propose a solution of their own? He noted that the problems identified are not going away.
3. What can the CEC do to assists the RLC and the task group to maximize their impact on the problems? Are there problems? How can the CEC better focus efforts to get the RLC, the task group and the Fire Protection Districts to view service in a realistic way? Mr. Wesley noted that something needs to happen.

Fustin explained when it comes to cutting the county up into quadrants the bottom line is dollars. Once the City of Springfield and the City of Chatham are removed there will not be enough tax money out there to create even a small paid *full time* department. There was discussion about a proposal where each district would have to vote to merge or to dissolve but that has yet to become a bill.

Fustin spoke about removing the "Pass Through" Districts. The City of Springfield would lose around a \$1M in funding from the Pass through Districts. It is about a dime on the dollar for the services provided to the FPD's. The distance from the fire station for homeowners plays a key part of the insurance premiums. A homeowner must live within 5 miles of a station to be considered protected. An unprotected homeowner pays an additional premium for their insurance.

Fustin spoke about an idea that a fire chief in Champaign had for the unpaid fire-fighter. His belief was that it is not conducive to train an unpaid fire-fighter to the same level as a paid fire-fighter. So three or four level training, Tiered Training, was developed for the unpaid volunteer. For an example, a resident of the community wants to be a member of the fire department and has no intention of crawling into a burning building so he could be trained as a station attendant; he could be trained to wash personal protective gear; he could be trained to how to fill the SAE bottles; he could be trained to operate radio systems; he could be trained to drive the equipment. Curriculum has been written for the various positions.

There was discussion about the reaction to the Tier Training from the attendees at the RLC meeting. There was great hesitation among the Sangamon County Fire Chiefs as they felt they would be reducing their level of training therefore they were not open to the discussion.

VI. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS

Chair Walters asked the commissioner to report on each of their work plans.

A. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner – Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman

Chair Walters noted Mayor Yokley from Williamsville made the State Journal Register Newspaper. It seems the State closed the Interstate 55 rest stop, between Sherman and Williamsville which Williamsville supplies water, due to utilities which was a miscommunication on the States part.

Mr. Plunk reported that the taskforce plans to meet to prepare for the January Retreat discussion.

Mr. Plunk noted the Regional Leadership Council next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27, 2015 at 5:30 County Board chambers.

B. Sewer Transfer Study - Chair Walters & Mike Murphy

Chair Walters noted the task force will be meeting with Mayor Jim Langfelder, Mark Mahoney, Director of Public Works and Gregg S. Humphrey, Director/ Engineer for Springfield Metro Sanitary District concerning the Sewer Study on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. Mr. Mahoney will share the improvements they have made and their focus on storm sewers.

Chair Walters stated this taskforce will have to get together before the January meeting to go over their strategy.

C. Regional Policing Study – Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke

Hon. Hasara reported Mr. Jim Cimarossa spoke with the City of Springfield Deputy Chief of Police and found out that hardly any services are now being shared. Items he spoke of are the Crime stoppers and the Special Response Team. The Response Team is a state supported



Team that designed to back up the State Police in case of a Chemical/Biological/Radiological Incident to have combine team members from the Springfield Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. However the Sherriff and the Police department both maintain their own tactical teams that do not normally work or train together.

Mr. Cimarossa also said that the Child Advocacy Center where the Department of Children and Family Services, Law Enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, and the medical and mental health communities work together to investigate, prosecute, and treat child sexual abuses cases. Currently the City police department helps City victims and the Sheriff's department helps the County victims. These individuals are trained in all aspects so some kind of sharing could be possible between the law enforcement officials.

Mr. Cimarossa report that the SPD reached out to the County to establish a Violent Crime Taskforce and the sheriff department declined participation. In the past the County had deputies assigned in a Drug team.

Chair Walters mentioned the article in State Journal Register Newspaper which report the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police paid \$12,000 in June to have a study completed concerning the Springfield Park District. Hon. Hasara said this could be a good way to get the City and County to agree to the CEC's study.

Mr. Mike Murphy reported he asked the Chamber of Commerce to help fund the study. The Chamber said they would like to be asked by both the City and the County and are willing to partner in the study if asked.

Governor's Taskforce last meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. Hon. Hasara stated she would attend the meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

D. Developing Legislative Linkages - Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke

Chair Walters mentioned the email list of Bills current in the House and the Senate. Commissioners discussed how to handle legislation and what to cover in January. Some key points were to how to best use the County Board. Present legislation that the commission is interested in to the Metropolitan Planning Council, who sponsored the Citizen Transformer Award, to see if they offer any help.

Hon. Hasara stated the Governor's Taskforce's report may have something the CEC could act on. The overall theme is to give power to the taxpayers.

Chair Walters stated the commission may want to speak with local legislators and ask them to consider something for us especially since we have an award.

E. Developing Linkages with Townships - J.D. Sudeth & Mike Murphy



F. Developing Linkages with Fire/EMS – Robert Plunk & Robert Wesley

See above – V. Guest Speaker - Fire/EMS- Chief Ken Fustin

Mr. Wesley reported that the taskforce had discussed a notion to explore consolidation among the “Pass-through” FPDs. To propose to the nine that they drop to four, so that there is still the authority to manage funding and pass it through but it cuts overhead costs.

G. Create Network of Business Leaders - J.D. Sudeth & Josh Collins

Chair Walters stated the uncertainty should be shifted to emphasize more on the business community. The taskforce should meet and discover “How can the business community play a role in this activity” and devise something knowing that the commission needs support.

There was discussion about communicating with businesses and the public to coordinate sharing the benefits of their support and engaging the business communities that it to their advantage to be involved. The taskforce need to decide if there are other ways to link to the business community in furthering or defining the objectives of the group.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Walters stated the commission has four big ticket items – the sewers, the policing, the fire, and the RLC Indicating she felt the townships will eventually happen. The businesses are more support. She suggested devoting 15 minutes to each big item at the beginning of the meeting and then to wrap up by answering the questions from the handout for the January Retreat. The commission needs to decide how they will proceed for the next fourteen months. This is the time to be brutally honest. What is attainable? What can be accomplished? The group needs to decide whether the CEC goes out with a bang or a whimper.

Mr. Norm Sims suggested reading the portion of the first CEC about the themes themselves and not just the recommendations. Symptoms of the large problem are sometimes a management problem.

Chair Walters stated the CEC needs to be thinking of what they would like to report in the Final report. Mr. Wesley said one definite win from this whole thing, it is the RLC. It would be high on the list if it was sustainable and the CEC would need to recommend to the County an amount to support a process for the RLC. The RLC has tremendous potential and Mr. Wesley doesn't believe the RLC has realized its potential yet.

After much discussion it was suggested the CEC give it “Their Best Shot” and run it like a campaign.



VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments. Christie Crites noted that voters lack knowledge of valid issues and identified the failed vote effort to dissolve Clearlake Village as a recent example.

Mr. Sims noted his report of *The Millennials: What Local Leaders Should Know about America's Newest Generation - A Review of Surveys and Assessments* is completed and available on the SSCRPC's website.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walters asked if there were any further comments. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Murphy motioned to adjourn. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary